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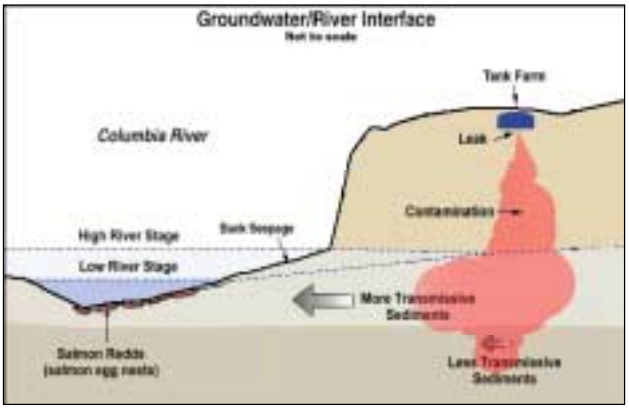
Program Mission

To lead the effective and efficient cleanup of the United States Department of Energy's Hanford Site, to ensure sound management of mixed hazardous wastes in Washington, and to protect the state's air, water, and land at and adjacent to the Hanford Site.

Environmental Threats

The Hanford Site consists of 560 square miles located in southeast Washington.Hanford's half-century of nuclear materials production has created one of the world's most polluted areas. The cleanup challenges include:

- Removing and vitrifying an estimated 53 million gallons of radioactive and chemically hazardous waste in Hanford's 177 underground storage tanks.
- Removing 2,100 tons of disintegrating nuclear fuel rods stored in two old concrete basins near the Columbia River.
- Approximately 190 square miles of contaminated ground water that flows toward and eventually enters the Columbia River. Out of these, approximately 95 square miles of contaminated ground water currently violate both federal and state drinking water standards.
- Operating and closing 50 hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal sites, ranging from small demolition sites to half-mile long concrete canyons.



- Cleaning up 1,500 waste sites, ranging from liquid waste disposal ditches to former reactor facilities, including 9.35 million tons of contaminated soil adjacent to the Columbia River.

Authorizing Laws

The United States Department of Energy (USDOE), which operates the Hanford Site, the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Department of Ecology, signed a comprehensive cleanup and compliance agreement on May 15, 1989. The Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, or Tri-Party Agreement (TPA), is an agreement that directs the Hanford Site cleanup and reflects a concerted goal of achieving, in an aggressive manner, full regulatory compliance and remediation with enforceable milestones.

The Nuclear Waste Program was created in support of the agency's commitment to the TPA. Since USDOE was not required to comply with hazardous waste nor air and water pollution standards until the late 1980s, over the next 30 years the TPA will bring the Hanford Site into compliance with the same rules that regulate private industry. Laws that govern the program include:

- *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)*
- *Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund)*
- *Toxic Substances Control Act*
- *Atomic Energy Act*
- *Clean Air Act*
- *Clean Water Act*
- *Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments Act*

- *Chapter 90.48 RCW, Clean Water Act*
- *Chapter 70.94 RCW, Clean Air Act*
- *Chapter 70.105 RCW, Hazardous Waste Management Act*
- *Chapter 70.105D RCW, Model Toxics Control Act*

Constituents/Interested Parties

Federal: To promote and support a strong national cleanup program, the agency works with Congress, USDOE, EPA, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Defense Nuclear Facility Safety Board, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Agency.

States: Cooperation with other states occurs primarily through the Environmental Council of States, the National Governor's Association, the Western Governors' Association, USDOE's State and Tribal Government Working Group, and the Oregon Office of Energy. Areas of interstate cooperation include federal legislation affecting cleanup activities, federal appropriations, waste transportation safety, interstate waste shipments, and regulatory streamlining.

Tribes: As the state's lead for natural resource damage assessments at the Hanford Site, the agency works with the Yakima, Umatilla, and Nez Perce Indian nations to ensure adequate consideration is given to natural resource values in planning and conducting cleanup work. The agency is available to meet quarterly with tribal technical staff.

Natural Resource Trustee Council: The agency works with USDOE, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to ensure adequate consideration is given to natural resource values in planning and conducting cleanup work.

Local Government: The agency consults with Franklin, Benton, and Grant counties and the cities of Pasco, Richland, Kennewick, Benton City, and West Richland on Hanford issues, including cleanup goals and priorities, through the Hanford Communities group.

Public Interest Groups: The agency continues active participation in and support for the Hanford Advisory Board. The Hanford Advisory Board comprises 32 representatives of local government, labor, business, tribal, environmental, and public interests. The agency meets regularly with active organizations, such as Heart of America Northwest, Hanford Watch of Oregon, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Washington League of Women Voters, Columbia River United, and the Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society.

Business: The agency works with principal Tri-Cities area business and labor groups interested in the agency's activities.

Other: The Washington State Departments of Health and the Department of Ecology each regulate aspects of the commercial low level radioactive waste disposal facility operated by US Ecology, Inc. at the Hanford Site. This facility serves the Northwest Compact for low level radioactive waste disposal. Washington is the host state for the compact, which consists of Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. Washington State participates in the national low level waste forum through the Department of Ecology.

Major Activities

The Tri-Party Agreement defines and ranks the cleanup commitments, establishes responsibilities, provides a basis for budgeting, and reflects enforceable milestones. Major activities include:

Tank Waste Disposal: Requiring the effective and efficient treatment and remediation of all Hanford tank waste.

Tank Waste Storage: Safe storage and management of all Hanford tank waste to complement the retrieval and treatment of tank waste and eventual closure of all tank farms.

Waste Management: Ensure the safe management of dangerous and mixed wastes at Hanford as well as mixed waste sites throughout Washington.

Facility Transition: Assist the effective and efficient remediation of contaminated facilities throughout the Hanford Site.

Environmental Restoration: Restore the public use of the air, soil, and water at Hanford and remove or reduce the risks associated with past Hanford activities to people and the environment.

Major Issues

The USDOE Environmental Management Program is the largest environmental program in the nation. The cleanup of the Hanford Site is one of the largest elements of this program.

Tank Waste Cleanup

The cleanup of underground tanks at the Hanford Site will be one of the longest and most costly public works projects ever undertaken. A key element of the cleanup work is retrieving and treating wastes that are stored in underground tanks. The start of constructing the tank waste treatment facilities necessary to get waste out of failing and aging tanks (a major milestone in the TPA) has been repeatedly delayed. The agency is actively pressing for construction to begin in order to start treating tank wastes beginning in 2007. The agency will continue to use available legal and political tools to prevent further schedule slips.

Continuation of Hanford Cleanup Progress

Cleanup progress has started on major Hanford facilities. The USDOE must be encouraged to continue seeking ways to maintain progress on the stabilization and decommissioning of these facilities to reduce hazards to workers and the environment. Progress must be maintained on issuing closure or final operating permits for waste transportation, storage, and disposal at the Hanford Site.

Protection of the Columbia River

Work must continue to clean up sites that could add to groundwater or river contamination, including the removal of decaying fuel rods from concrete storage areas located near the Columbia River. Groundwater cleanup and close monitoring of liquid waste discharges and cleanup must also continue.

Decisions about Additional Waste Storage or Treatment at Hanford

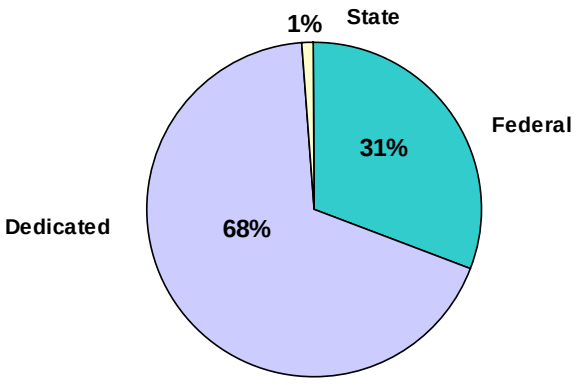
Many recent and pending national decisions link the cleanup of former nuclear weapons plants and the disposition of surplus weapons materials. Hanford is a potential storage, treatment, and disposal site for not only its own wastes and materials, but also those from many other sites in the country. At the same time, long term plans for Hanford cleanup include shipping transuranic and high level wastes, spent nuclear fuel, and surplus plutonium to other sites for disposal. The agency participates actively in national forums that deal with these issues and advises state policy makers on the state's response to these cleanup plans.

Nuclear Waste Program Budget

Budget: $13,803,443; Staffing: 75 FTEs

State	($) Amount	Sources	Uses
General Fund – State	170,421	Multiple	Congressional liaison for Hanford cleanup and Air Pollution Control oversight.
Federal			
General Fund – Federal	4,253,760	Federal grants	Remove radiological and heavy metal contaminants from soils; remove and store spent nuclear fuel. Provide regional management of low level radioactive waste. Educate public on Hanford Environmental DOSE Reconstruction Project
Dedicated Funds			
General Fund – Private Local	712,701	Site use permit fee for generators, packagers, or brokers using the Hanford Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility	Policy oversight of commercial low level radioactive waste disposal within the state and the Northwest Interstate Compact on low level radioactive waste management
State Toxics Control Account – Mixed Waste Fee	8,265,371	Permit fees for Mixed Waste Facilities	Remove radiological and heavy metal contaminants from soils; remove and store spent nuclear fuel; provide regulatory assistance to USDOE
Water Quality Permit Fees	206,029	Fees collected for wastewater discharge permits	Actions needed to maintain safe facilities which treat wastewater discharges on the Hanford site
Air Operating Permit Fees	195,161	Permit fees collected for air contaminant sources	Actions needed to maintain safe facilities which treat waste discharges on the Hanford site
Capital Budget Funding: $5,292,009			
Site Closure Account	5,292,009 *reappropriation*	Fee charged to generators of radioactive waste	Closure and decommissioning of the Hanford low level radioactive waste disposal facility

Nuclear Waste Program Dollars by Fund Source



Nuclear Waste Program Dollars by Activity